

I was not able to visit the site again until September 10, when much to my surprise two of the Thornbill's eggs had disappeared and been replaced by the closely spotted egg of the Narrow-billed Bronze Cuckoo (*Chalcites basalis*). On September 15 a recently hatched young Cuckoo was the only occupant.

On the following day I spent some time at the nest and was amazed to observe three adult Thornbills in attendance. One adult entered the hollow and was fed in turn by each of two other individuals, so that at one time all three birds might be seen to-



Female Chestnut-tailed Thornbill feeding its young.

—Photo S. R. White.

gether. This habit of multiple attendance at the nest is a well known feature of the Blue Wrens (*Malurus*). Has it been noted by other members among the Thornbills (*Acanthiza*)?

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Western and Eastern forms of the Bearded Dragon Lizard.—
In *The Western Australian Naturalist*, vol. 1, no. 8, p. 157, reference was made to the characters in which the western and eastern

forms of the Bearded Dragon Lizard (*Amphibolurus barbatus*) appeared to differ most strikingly to a field observer. The accompanying photographs give some idea of the general appearance of both. The eastern lizard, photographed at Rockhampton, central Queensland in 1944, shows a commonly adopted stance. The mouth is frequently opened much wider and the throat pouch more fully distended. The other photograph was taken at Morawa, Western Australia in 1948. Unfortunately for purposes of comparison this lizard is not displaying the throat pouch at all, though in my experience it does not enlarge the throat at any time to such spectacular dimensions as the eastern form. It will be noted, also, that in the western lizard there is not such a marked development of spines.



Eastern (on left) and western forms of Bearded Dragon Lizards.

In his review of "Australian Reptiles in the Museum of Comparative Zoology" (*Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool.*, vol. 77, 1934, p. 243), Dr. Arthur Loveridge of that institution (at Cambridge, Mass.), recognises the following three subspecies of this lizard in Australia: *Amphibolurus barbatus barbatus* Cuvier 1829, from eastern Australia; *A. b. minor* Sternfeld 1919, from the mainland of Western Australia, and *A. b. minimus* Loveridge 1933, from the Abrolhos Islands.

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